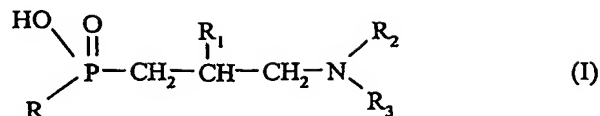


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CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I

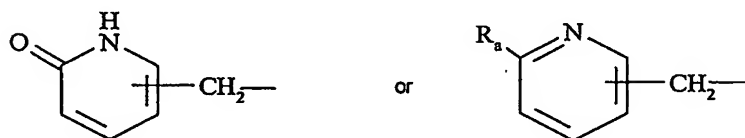


wherein

R is (C₃₋₅)alkyl, di(C₁₋₄)alkoxymethyl, (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₄)alkyl or benzyl optionally substituted in the aromatic ring by one to three radicals selected from (C₁₋₄)alkyl, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy and halo,

R₁ is hydrogen or hydroxy,

R₂ is a group of formula

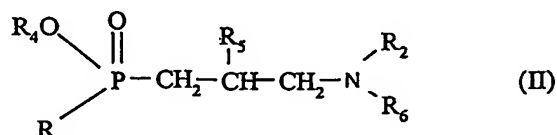


wherein R_a is (C₁₋₄)alkoxy, and

R₃ is hydrogen or (C₁₋₄)alkyl,

or a salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 which is {2-(S)-hydroxy-3-[(6-oxo-1,6-dihydro-pyridin-3-ylmethyl)-amino]-propyl}-(cyclohexylmethyl)-phosphinic acid, in free base or salt form.
3. A process for the production of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, in free base or salt form, which comprises, in a compound of formula II



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- wherein R and R₂ are as defined in claim 1, R₄ is a hydroxy-protecting group, R₅ is hydrogen or protected hydroxy and R₆ is R₃ as defined in claim 1 or an amino-protecting group, or in a salt thereof freeing the hydroxy group by replacing the hydroxy-protecting group R₄ by hydrogen and, where appropriate, freeing the hydroxy group R₁ from the protected hydroxy group R₅, removing the amino-protecting group R₆ and, if desired, converting a resulting compound into a different compound of formula I, separating a mixture of isomers into its components and/or converting a salt into the corresponding free compound or vice-versa.
4. A compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, for use as a pharmaceutical.
 5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, in association with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.
 6. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of epilepsy, cerebral insufficiency, cognition deficits, depression, schizophrenia, or anxiety.
 7. A method for the treatment of epilepsy of the "petit mal" type, cerebral insufficiency, depression and anxiety, in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to such subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.